

A History of The Bezwada Bar Association

By

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To

ANDHRA KESARI

SRI TANGUTURI PRAKASAM PANTULU GARU

Introduction

The Law and the Lawyer have played as important a part in the history of our country as in England and America. Even during the darkest days of the British Rule, the Law and the lawyer had striven to uphold the Rule of Law and Justice.

Most of the leaders who fought for India's freedom under the banners of Sri Lokamanya Tilak and Mahatma Gandhi are lawyers or men who know the law. Many of the founding fathers of our great Constitution are eminent lawyers.

The Sovereign Democratic Republic of India was established to secure to all its citizens;

Justice, Social, Economic and Political;

*Liberty of thought, Expression, Belief, Faith
and Worship;*

*Equality of Status and of Opportunity;
and to promote among them all*

*Fraternity, assuring the Dignity of the
Individual and the Unity of the Nation.*

Civil Liberty is the keystone of our Constitution. The founding fathers wished to keep the basic human rights safe from the "Destructive instincts" of adventurous politicians. They wished to safeguard "the liberty of the human spirit against the encroachments of the state". They also wanted to safeguard the rights of the citizens not only from the danger of "the executive" interference but also from legislative interference". They have therefore built into the constitution the Fundamental Rights of the citizens.

Sri Palkhivala rightly observes that the Directive Principles are the directing ends of the Government while the Fundamental Rights are the permissible means for achieving these ends and that an honest and competent Government would be able to achieve the directing ends by the permissible means.

Venerable members of the constituent assembly had one after another declared that these Fundamental Rights are intended to be permanent and inalienable and they should be above political controversies.

"The very purpose of the Bill of Rights" (which corresponds to our Fundamental Rights) "is to withdraw certain subjects from the vicissitudes of political controversy, to place them beyond the reach of the majorities and officials, to establish them as legal principles to be applied by courts. One's right to Liberty and Property, to Free Speech, the Free Press, Freedom of worship and assembly and the other fundamental rights may not be submitted to vote, they depend on the outcome of no elections". (per Jackson, West Virginian State Board of Education Vs. Barnette 319 U. S. 624, 638).

Even at the time of the first amendment several members of the Parliament raised the specific point that the Fundamental Rights cannot be repealed even by a constitutional amendment.

Sri J. B. Kriplani exclaimed that it is a strange jugglery that article 31 "A" which dealt with the abolition of the Zamindaries should also seek to abrogate the freedom of speech in article 19 (i) (A). This jugglery continued in subsequent constitutional amendments.

It fell to the lot of Sri C. Rajagopalachari and Sri K. M. Munshi who are among the old guard of the Congress and also some Jurists, to oppose the erosion of the Fundamental Rights.

The law and the lawyer continue to uphold the Rule of Law in our Democracy and keep up the noble traditions.

The story of the great role of Law and the Lawyer in the history of our country has not been fully told till now. Only a few great lawyers have written their reminiscences. Much material has been lost during the vicissitudes our country has passed through. During the centenary celebrations of our High Courts, some attempt has been made to salvage the material and write an account of it.

The role of Law and the Lawyers in the mofussil has not been dealt with in any publication. Some Bar Associations have celebrated their Jubilees and published brief accounts about the Bench and Bar but they are neither complete nor forthright.

A Souvenir published by the Diamond Jubilee Celebrations Committee of the Bezwada Bar Association in 1968 contains an article by Sri D. V. Siva Rao on the History of the Bezwada Bar. It has come to light that the editor of the Souvenir has curtailed the article by omitting important portions including the relations between the Bench and the Bar. At the request of Sri Gottipati Murali Mohan, Advocate and Secretary of the Committee, the author has given a fresh copy of the full text of his article in 1968 but it has not been published till now.

Some members of the Bezwada Bar including myself read the full text and felt that it should be published as it

contains not only the history of the Bar but also the history of our country and its problems.

I am grateful to Sri A. Sreenivasa Rao, Sri A. S. Rama Rao, Sri D. Pitchiah, Sri H. A. P. Sastry and Sri Kanuri S. Sankara Rao for contributing liberally for the publication of this valuable book.

Vijayawada }
15-8-1975 }

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Note about the Author

Sri Digavalli Venkata Sivarao, B. A., B. L., Advocate. Vijayawada is the son of late Venkata Ratnam, Pantulu garu and grand son of Thimmaraju Pantulu garu, Huzur Sheristadar of Rajahmundry District, under the East India Company, and belongs to a distinguished family of Kakinada. He was born on 14th February, 1898 and had his early education in Viresalingam High School, Rajahmundry. He graduated from the Presidency College, Madras in 1920, and was awarded the Bourdillon prize in 1919, and the Powell and Morehead prize (Rs. 150) in 1922. He joined the Bar at Vijayawada in 1922 and was its President in 1947.

He has done research in Indian History and has contributed many articles to Bharathi, Andhra Patrika, Krishna Patrika and other Telugu Journals from 1924 onwards. He was a Special Correspondent of Swarajya

and an occasional contributor to the Hindu and other English periodicals. He is the author of many books on History, Politics, Economics and other subjects in Telugu published during the last 40 years. He was in charge of Publicity work of the West Krishna Congress Committee during the Civil Disobedience Movement of 1930 and 1932 and published many booklets and pamphlets on political subjects relating to the struggle for Freedom which were proscribed by the Government. He was also prosecuted for sedition but the case was withdrawn under the terms of the Gandhi Irwin Pact. Late Sri A. Kaleswara Rao, Speaker of Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly, mentions his work in his autobiography.

His works include Dominion Status, History of British Rule in India, Co-operation in India, Kathalu - Gadhalu in 4 Volumes, The Wars of Sannyasis (1763-1775) and English Telugu Dictionary of Technical Terms, published in 1935 and widely used by Schools and Courts. His book "The History of South Africa" is dedicated to Mahatma Gandhi. "The Indian Federation Unmasked" was written in collaboration with Dr. B. Pattabhi Seetharamayya and is published by the Andhra Provincial Congress Committee in 1939. His "History of African Nationalism" is published by the Telugu Academy of History and Science, Hyderabad and released by President Dr. Rajendra Prasad at the inauguration of the Academy in the Jubilee Hall, Hyderabad in August, 1959. "1857 Poorva Rangamulu", "Mana Andhratvam", "Praja Prabhutvam" and our Police-System, "Kasiyatra Charitra of Yenugula Veeraswamayya" are some of his other publications. His unpublished works include The History of Andhra Pradesh 2 volumes,

Indian War of Independence (1857), "Kathalu - Gadhalu" (new series), Lives of Lokamanya Tilak, Yenugulu Veeraswamayya, Gazula Lakshminarasu Chetty and other great men of India. His English articles on the Hindu Muslim Civilization of India, and Christianization of India have been reprinted in book form in 1941, but his big work on British Rule in India remains unpublished.

Sri Siva Rao has to his credit 40 published books and 350 research papers in Telugu and a number of articles in English. The first volume of his latest book "Vismruta Andhram Visala Andhram" is published in April 1975. It is dedicated to Sri M. Soma Sekhara Sarma, the savant of Andhra Historical Research.

Sri Siva Rao was a member of the Governing body of the Vignana Chandrika Mandali and Director of the Andhra Co-operative Institute, Vijayawada. He is a member of the Editorial Committee of the Telugu Urdu Academy of History and Science, Hyderabad, a member of the Glossary Committee constituted by the Andhra Pradesh Government in 1957 and Chairman of its Sub - Committee and a member of the Translation Committee constituted by the Government of Andhra Pradesh in 1964. He was honoured by the A. P. Government as a Historian at a public meeting held on 22-9-1966 at Vijayawada. His articles appear occasionally in Andhra Prabha and Andhra Jyoti and other periodicals.

Y. V. H. Rao.

A History of

The Bezwada Bar Association

Vijayawada was known to history as Bezwada until the old name was changed by the Government at the request of some enthusiastic members of the Municipal Council in 1950. The name Bezwada occurs in the inscription of King Vishnu Vardhana who ruled Andhra Desa between 719 and 755 A. D. and a number of other inscriptions. The names Vijayawada and Vijayavatika also occur in a few inscriptions and poetical works but common people used the name of Bezwada alone. It has been the house name of some famous families of Reddis and others in Andhra Desa. The Town of Bezwada saw glorious and prosperous times during the Hindu, Buddhist and Jain periods of history. But the Muslim rulers preferred the fortified Hill Fort of Kondapalli. Akkanna and Madanna ministers of Golkonda Sultan frequently visited Bezwada and worshipped the Goddess Kanaka Durga and made endowments to the Deity.

Bezwada formed part of a small Zamindari when the East India Company obtained Northern Circars from Nizam Ali Khan of Hyderabad and took possession in 1769. It belonged to Kadavakolanu family. The Zamindari was confirmed in the Permanent settlement of 1802; but it fell into arrears and the Zamindari was at last sold for arrears and purchased by the company government in 1846 for Rs. 3000/-

During the time of the Company, the former Kondapalli Circar i. e., the country between Godavari and Krishna Rivers was called the Masulipatam District. The Head Quarters of the District was Masulipatam. Provincial Chiefs and their councils at Masulipatam administered the territories of Masulipatam and Rajahmundry Districts till 1794 when District Collectors were appointed to function under the Supervision of the Board of Revenue at Madras. The present East and West Godavari Districts were called Rajahmundry District from 1820 to 1859.

Till 1802 there were no regular Laws for the administration of justice. Along with the Permanent Settlement Regulation 34 Regulations were passed for the administration of justice and good government of the country. Maclean's Manual of Administration of the Madras Presidency Vol I, gives an account of the Madras Judicial System (for the Districts) introduced in 1802. Previous to this there were no regular courts for the civil and criminal administration of justice.

In 1802 a Zillah Court was established at Masulipatam with a European Judge assisted by Native Law Officers as in other Districts. A Provincial Court, one of four courts in the Presidency, was also established at Masulipatam as a Court of Appeal for cases decided by the Zillah Judges of Rajahmundry and Masulipatam. There were three judges. The Decrees of the Zillah Judge were final in cases of the value of Rs. 1000/-. Above that amount appeal lay to the Provincial Court. The Zillah Judges could try cases referred to them by the Provincial Court. The Provincial Court was given original jurisdiction in cases above Rs 5,000/- in 1809. Their decision

was final in cases of the value of Rs. 5,000/- Above that amount there was an appeal to the Sudder Adaulat Court at Madras. The Provincial Court could also try cases referred to them by the Sudder Court. The decisions of the Sudder Adaulat were final upto Rs. 45,000/-. Above that there was an appeal to the Governor General in Council. At first the Sudder Court consisted of the Governor and members of his council but later on judges were appointed. After 1818 appeals lay to the Privy Council.

In 1802 a Court of Circuit was also appointed. The Judges of the Provincial Court held Sessions to try Criminal cases.

There was an Officer called the "Register" in the Zillah Court who could try cases of the value of Rs. 200/- and cases referred to him by the Zillah Judge. He could hear appeals from the decisions of Native commissioners appointed to try petty cases of value below Rs. 100/- and later on of some more value. They were designated "Moonsifs" and Sudder Ameens. By 1816 the jurisdiction of Munsiff was raised to Rs. 200/-. In 1821 the jurisdiction of the Registers and Sudder Ameens and Moonsifs was raised to Rs. 1000/-, 750/-, 500/- respectively. And in 1833 further raised to 3,000/-, 2,500/-, and 1,000/-. In 1836 Sudder Ameens were designated as Principal Sudder Ameens. A letter of Vatyam Adwaita Brahamyya Ststri to C. P. Brown in 1833 shows that there was a District Munsif Court at Jujjuru. (See గద్య చిత్రపట)

In reorganizing the judicial system in 1843 the Provincial Court at Masulipatam was abolished. A new Zillah

Court with a Single District Judge was appointed to perform the functions of the Provincial Court. A Register was not appointed. Original jurisdiction up to Rs. 10,000/- was transferred to Subordinate Judges and Principal Sudder Ameens. The Zillah Court was given jurisdiction to hear appeals from Subordinate Judges, Principal Sudder Ameens, Sudder Ameens and Moonsifs. They could refer appeals from Moonsifs to Subordinate Judges. Appeals from the Zillah judges lay to Sudder Adaulat Court at Madras.

Besides the Sudder Court set up by the East India Company there was the Supreme Court at Madras established under the authority of the Crown with original Civil and Criminal Jurisdiction in the Presidency Town of Madras and in cases in which Europeans were involved. Appeals lay to the Privy Council from the decisions of the Supreme Court.

The High Court of judicature at Madras was opened on 16th August 1862 under the Indian High Courts Act of 1861. It was to be Supreme over all courts both of the Presidency Town and of the Mofussil. The Sudder Adaulat Court and Supreme Court were abolished. Appeals lay to the Privy Council from the decisions of the High Court. The Practice of Consulting Pandits on doubtful points of Hindu Law was abolished in 1863 as it was found that they interpollated the texts. See Collector of Madras Vs. P. Muthu Ramalinga Sethupathy.

There were six Munsif Courts in Rajahmundry District and an equal number in the Masulipatam District including one at Guraza near Gudivada and another at Jujjuru in Nandigama Taluk.

Bezwada became an important town when Captain Orr, R. E; Civil Engineer began to construct the Bezwada Anicut in July 1852, It was completed by August 1855. Mr. Orr resided on the hill which was known as Orr's hill and now named the Gandhi Hill. He had an assistant Engineer and a big staff under him. Thousands of labourers had to be collected. The Bezwada Tahsildar and their Tahsildars of the District took vigorous measures to levy forced labour. The Collector of Masulipatam wrote on 11-2-1854 that the Civil Engineer wrote three letters for the last three days that there was a decrease of forced labourers though every Tahsildar was under heavy stoppage of pay and had been fined and threatened with dismissal. (Manual of Krishna District page 257).

The Tahsildars had Police Powers and were also Magistrates in those days. They were Subordinate to the Collectors and Head Assistant Collectors. In 1856 a Sub-Collector was appointed for Masulipatam District and was stationed at Bezwada. The Assistant was sent to Ellore.

The Krishna District was formed in 1859 comprising the whole of the former Guntur District and Masulipatam District. Mr. Knox who was Collector of Masulipatam District became the first Collector of the new District on 16-12-1859.

The Taluk of Bezwada included the Kondapalli range of hills to the north where it was bound by the Nandigama Teluq and the Nuzvid Zamindari and in the south it included portion of the territory acquired from the Zamindar of Vallur.

Bezwada was a small town with a population below 10,000. It became the seat of a District Munsif, Head Assistant Collector, Superintending Engineer and Executive Engineer.

We are able to trace the history of the Court of the District Munsif at Bezwada to the year 1860 when the Munsif Court at Guraza was shifted to Bezwada. Mr. Abdul Allam Saheb was the first District Munsif. He was respected by the public and the pleaders. He continued to hold the office till 1880. Pleadings, Arguments and Judgements were all in Telugu. Some of the pleadings and Judgements are met with as exhibits some times in suits of later years.

In the early days one need not pass an examination to be qualified to practice as a Pleader. The District Judge used to grant a Certificate to practice as Pleader. Later on only persons who passed the prescribed "Special Test" Examinations were qualified as Pleaders and granted Certificates.

Fort St. George Gazette dated 29th July 1865 published the revised rules for Special Test Examinations. Judicial Test, Civil Higher Grade for (i) Principal Sudder Ameer (ii) District Munsifs (iii) Pleaders in Civil and Sessions Courts, Principal Sudder Ameer Courts and Provincial Courts of Small Causes. The subjects were Law of Evidence, Civil Procedure Code, Civil Rules of Practice, Contracts, Torts, Hindu Law and Mohammedan Law.

Judicial Test, Criminal Higher for (1) Principal Sudder Ameer (2) District Munsifs (3) Pleaders of Civil and

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Sessions Courts, Principal Sudder Ameens Courts and Provincial Small Cause Courts. (4) Deputy Magistrates (5) Subordinate Magistrates. The subjects were Law of Evidence, Penal Code and Criminal Rules of Practice. Examinations were conducted in English but for special reasons the Government would permit a candidate to pass in Telugu. Telugu translations of English works on Law and Major Acts and Codes were available.

Principal Sudder Ameens, District Munsifs, Deputy Collectors and Magistrates should pass a Translation Test also.

It was only after Legal Education was reorganised in 1884 that regular law classes were held in the Presidency College and Senate House at Madras and Degrees in Law were conferred. Later on the Law College was established and affiliated to the Madras University.

Mr. Thummalapalli Balaramaiah Pantulu who belonged to Gudivada, practised as a Pleader first at Guraza and then at Bezwada when Mr. Allam Saheb was Munsif at Bezwada. He used to sign his name in Telugu as 'Balaramudu'. His son Mr. T. Venkata Ramanayya Pantulu began to practice as a Pleader from 1872 at a very young age. He was highly respected by his fellow Pleaders and the public alike. He practised for about 38 years and died in 1917.

Mr. Yarra Subbarayudu, District Munsif of Bezwada between 1887 and 1890 was a Telugu Scholar and had a fairly good knowledge of English. He belonged to a respectable Yadava family of Rajahmundry and was a God-fearing and kind-hearted gentleman. Mr. Peddibhotla

Veerayya mentions in his autobiography that when he went to him as a boy of 12 to see the result of Middle School Examination in the Gazette, Mr. Subbarayudu expressed his joy that the boy passed in first class and secured very high marks and asked him whether he would work as a clerk in his Court. Mr. Subbarayudu has become famous as the editor of the - "Vastuguna Deepika" in Telugu. It was first published by his father in 1883 and he brought forth a revised and enlarged edition in 1900 which has run into many editions and is acclaimed as a standard work on Ayurvedic Materia Medica and as a Hand-book on Medicine. He died in 1907.

It is a pity that no attempt has been made to identify the lawyers and the Munsif in the group photo taken in 1890 and published in the Diamond Jubilee Souvenir now. From a comparison of the photo of Mr. Subbarayudu in Vastuguna Deepika I am convinced that the Munsif in the group photo of 1890 is Mr. Subbarayudu himself.

Mr. K. S. Sundaram Chetty who was District Munsif between 1902 and 1905 was a very popular officer. He was kind and courteous to young lawyers. Mr. Dasu Vishnu Rao pays a great tribute to him in his autobiography. He was afterwards raised to the Bench of the High Court of Judicature at Madras.

Bezwada became the centre of trade and its population increased. The Subordinate Judge's Court of Unlimited Jurisdiction was established in Bezwada in July 1913 and Sri. T. Krishnaswami Naidu was the first Sub-Judge. He was a popular officer.

Mr. Dasu Madhusudana Rao B. A., B. L., joined the Bezwada Bar in December 1903. Mr. C. Rajagopalachari, B. A., B. L. joined it earlier in 1903 Mr. P. Virayya B. A., B. L. joined the Bar at Masulipatnam in 1899 but came and settled at Bezwada in December 1904. Mr. Dasu Vishnu Rao B. A., B. L., joined this Bar on 17-10-1905. By the time they joined the Bar, the following were practising as Pleaders at Bezwada.

- Messrs.
1. Thummalapalli Venkata Ramanayya,
 2. Patibanda Venkata Ramanayya,
 3. Boddapati Venkatappayya,
 4. Sripathi Gopayya,
 5. Mudda Subbayya,
 6. Abburi Srirangasai,
 7. Vinnakota Kodandaramayya,
 8. Vinnakota Lakshminarasimham,
 9. Challapalli Hanumanlu,
 10. T. Rajaram Rao,
 11. Thadanki Venkata Narasayya,
 12. Sri Suri Venkata Narsimha Sastri who passed his F. A in 1899 December and then passed his Pleadership examination.

Mr. Thummalapalli Balaramaiah (Junior), son of Venkata Ramanayya Pantulu also joined the Bar in 1905. Mr. Mudda Subbaiah, and Mr. T. Seshachalarao Garu retired in that year. Mr. Basavaraju Krishna Rao had already retired. Mr. A. Kaleswara Rao joined the Bar in 1906.

Mr. P. Virayya, Mr. Kaleswara Rao and Mr. D. Vishnu Rao have written their Auto Biographies and

recorded their reminiscences of the Bezwada Bar. The auto-biography of Mr. Vishnu Rao is very interesting and contains penpictures of Lawyers and Judges. But it is not yet published. The autobiography of Mr. Virayya which is published is only an abridgment. The original manuscript contains more particulars. Mr. P. Virayya had preserved in his papers some records relating to the affairs of Bezwada Bar with which he was connected. He had also drawn up a list of Lawyers and Judicial officers between 1860 and 1944.

A small piece of paper in the handwriting of Mr. Virayya mentions that Mr. P. V. Ramanayya Pantulu was President and Mr. P. Virayya was Secretary between 1906 and 1911 and that Mr. P. Virayya was President between 1911 and 1926, that there were four Secretaires during that period and that Mr. C. Rajagopala Chari was President between 1926-1940. It appears to have been written in the year 1944 from memory; for Mr. Rajagopalachari was President only till 1938. Mr. V. Dasaradha Ramayya was President in 1934. There is nothing in writing to show that a President or Secretary was elected or functioned as such between 1906 and 1911. There is however, evidence to show that members of the Bezwada Bar were functioning as a Body from 1908 and that Mr. P. V. Ramanayya and Mr. Virayya acted as their spokesmen. It can therefore be said that they only acted as the Defacto President and Secretary of the Body. A convention had grown up in Bezwada to re-elect the outgoing President. The election if there was any, was uncontested. Mr. P. Virayya was elected year after year from 1912 to 1926. It is after Mr. C. Rajagopalachari's President ship in 1938 that different Presidents were elected each year.

The first battle for the preservation of the rights and privileges of the Bar was fought in September 1908. Mr. Pandipeddi Audi Narayana Iayah, a Brahmin convert to Christianity came to Bezwada as District Munsif. He was eccentric and was short tempered and was addicted to drink. He usually came to Court very late and sometimes he would stay at home and sign the papers. He used to express his respect for Christianity and his contempt for Hinduism even from the Bench. He would cut short all evidence and try to dispose of cases on technical points. He compelled people to compromise. He used to write "Arguments heard case closed" without recording any evidence. He would not announce the dates of adjournments and parties had to attend day to day for even a fortnight. The Court Diary was written at his will and pleasure and it would not tally with the Call Books of the Pleaders. In a case in which Mr. Challapalli Hanumanlu, a Pleader, was himself the defendant, the Munsif said that he would not believe the statement and cut short the evidence after the chief-examination of the plaintiff and sanctioned his prosecution for perjury on 3-9-1908. It was quashed in appeal.

On 2-9-1908 the Pleaders had informally discussed in the Bar Room about the conduct of the Munsif and thought of making some representations to the District Judge when he visited the place and also to the High Court. This reached the ears of the Munsif and he began to harass the Pleaders in a number of ways. He acted arbitrarily and vindictively and would not allow Pleaders to represent other Pleaders.

On 29-9-1908 the District Judge Mr. Kershasp came to Bezwada and called some Pleaders to meet him at the

Travellers' Bungalow with their Call Books. Messrs. P. V. Ramanayya, and D. Vishnu Rao were among those who met the District Judge on that day and spoke to him. The Munsif came to Court early that day and dismissed two suits of Mr. P. V. Ramanayya, inspite of the fact that Mr. Vishnu Rao represented that he was coming and was about to enter the Court hall. He sent a petition to the District Judge on that day about the conduct of the Munsif. When the District Judge asked the Munsif for explanation he wrote an impertinent reply that Munsifs are not school boys to be goaded on; they work with a high sense of responsibility. The District Judge wrote a report on the facts stated in the petition of Mr. Virayya to the High Court. Two Judges of the High Court came to enquire. Messrs. P. V. Ramanayya, D. Vishnu Rao and P. Virayya gave evidence. The Munsif was reduced by thirty places and was transferred.

Mr. D. Vishnu Rao has described the above incidents in his autobiography. A copy of the petition of Mr. P. V. Ramanayya and the affidavit of Mr. P. Virayya are preserved by Mr. Virayya who has also preserved a contemporary Diary of events recorded by him about these incidents. These papers do not however describe Mr. P. V. Ramanayya as President or Mr. Virayya as Secretary of the Bar Association.

Certain points have to be noted in this connection. The members of the Bar did not actually organise themselves as an Association but acted as a Body. They had a Bar Room at the time. They did not hold a regular meeting of the Pleaders but they only informally discussed and decided the line of action to be taken. There was no regu.

lar resolution passed, but a representation was made to the District Judge by their spokesmen and the Bar succeeded in its united efforts. This certainly can be said to be the beginnings of the Bezwada Bar Association.

On 21-4-1918 Mr. K. L. Narasimha Rao Pleader, wrote a letter to the President, Bar Association Bezwada about various remarks made by Mr. R. Yagna Rama Iyer, Additional Deputy Collector on 19-4-1918 when he went to file a petition in S. S. 369/1917. Summary Suits were suits under the provisions of the Estates Land Act of 1908. Mr. Narasimha Rao appended the dialogue that took place in the presence of Mr. A. Ramakrishna Raju the New Additional Deputy Collector who came to take charge. The Deputy Collector said he cannot receive a petition after the case was closed. And he was not bound by the C. P. C. He proposed to deliver Judgement before he handed over charge that evening. He asked the vakil to take back the petition. He said "Will you obey my orders or not? So long as you are here, you are my subordinate". He threatened to take action under the Legal Practitioner's Act. He said he would not have done this before a European. When Mr. K. L. Narasimharao asked leave to go, he said "you can go if you will take back the petition. Otherwise I will take action for disobedience". When Mr. K. L. Narasimharao said that he had no instruction to take back the petition, he recorded a statement from him.

Mr. P. Virayya, President, Bar Association, issued an urgent notice on 21-4-1918 to the members of the Bar Association convening an extra - ordinary meeting of the Association on 23-4-1918 at 4 P. M. at the Bar Association

Room, District Munsif's Court, Bezwada, to consider the steps to be taken regarding the complaint of Mr. K. L. Narasimharao. As there was no quorum the meeting was adjourned. A special notice was again issued by Mr. Virayya on 24-4-1918 convening a meeting on 25-4-1918 at 5-30 P.M. On 25-4-1918, the Bar Association passed a Resolution "that the Bar Association viewed it with disapprobation". On 29-4-1918, Mr. Virayya sent a copy of the resolution to A.Y.G. Campbell Esq., I. C. S., (C.I.E.), District Collector Krishna. The District Collector sent a communication dated 9-8-1918 to the President of the Bar Association that suitable action had been taken in the matter.

Mr. Vadlamudi Brahmayya was Additional Deputy Collector at Bezwada, between 1920 and 1923. He was an able, honest and efficient officer but was very strict and some times overbearing and discourteous. He sometimes passed remarks against Pleaders that they screen the accused and make false representations and induce witnesses to give false evidence. He would himself cross-examine the witness and overawe them. He characterized the allegations in the petitions filed by the Pleaders as false even when the court records show them to be correct.

Pleaders made complaints to the President, Bar Association and on 26-6-20 the Bar Association resolved that a Subcommittee be formed to receive statements about the treatment and place them before the general meeting within a month. As Mr. Brahmayya went on leave and he was not expected to rejoin at Bezwada, the matter was not pursued. But Mr. Brahmayya came again after the expiry of his leave and there was the usual trouble. When

Mr. Govindaraju Subba Rao who appeared for the accused in a criminal case, ceased to represent him, Mr. Brahmayya asked him to show cause why action should not be taken against him. He was making provocative remarks against Pleaders. On 15-3-1923, he refused to receive some plaints with deficit stamps when the clerk of Mr. C. Rajagopalachari presented them at 4-15 P. M. after obtaining stamps, the Deputy Collector went upstairs and was writing a Judgment. The Head Clerk refused to receive the plaints. The Deputy Collector told the Head Clerk that the Vakil should come. He would not see the Vakil when he came and asked him to present the plaint before the Head Clerk who would not receive them as it was 5 P. M. They were limitation plaints. Mr. C. Rajagopalachari filed the plaints the next day with a petition. The Deputy Collector received them. But this was an irregularity as he had no power to excuse the delay.

The Deputy Collector continued to harass the Pleaders by keeping them waiting and calling cases in their absence. The President accordingly brought all these facts to the notice of the District Collector but no action was taken immediately. The Deputy Collector was however transferred soon.

Mr. Jammi Venkatrao Pantulu who was District Munsif in 1921 was an able Officer but was fond of pomp and used to talk about his own greatness. On 23-4-21 Mr. P. Appa Rao who joined the Bar a year ago was representing a Defendant in a case. When the witness at first gave an answer to the question put in cross-examination, and changed it when the question was repeated, the answer was not recorded. When the witness pointed

out the omission to the Court before signing the deposition, the Court refused to note it. The witness refused to sign it and there were some altercations over the incident. When the Court asked why Mr. P. Apparao did not re-examine the witness about it Mr. Appa Rao innocently said that he thought ever thing was being properly recorded. The Munsif got offended and flew into a rage and said "you swear to an affidavit that the Court is not properly recording" and added "You do anything for the mere pittance of a few rupees". A strongly worded Resolution was passed by the Bar Association on 25-4-1921 condemning the remarks of the Munsif.

On 27-4-1921 Mr. V. Dasaratharamayya and his junior, Mr. N. S. Ramarao and four others sent a requisition to reconsider the Resolution. The Association met and reaffirmed the first Resolution. On 3-5-1921 another requisition was made by some Pleaders to keep in abeyance the resolution dated 25-4-1921. There was commotion among the Members of the Bar over this affair. The matter would have taken a serious turn, but Mr. Koka Samba Siva Rao Naidu, who was Sub-Judge at Bezwada for 5½ years and who was a popular officer intervened and induced the Munsif to express some sort of regret at the incident and the matter was closed. Mr. D. V. Vishnurao has discribed the above incidents in his autobiography.

Mr. Devaguptapu Seshagiri Rao, was was Additional Deputy Collector at Bezwada in September 1923. He was a clever but an arrogant man. He used to object to the use of the word Rajah before the name of the Zamindars in the plaints and said it could not be used unless the title was conferred by the Government. Some Pleaders tried to

justify it by saying that it was part of the name of the Zamindars. The Deputy Collector would not allow one Pleader to represent another in his absence and asked for authority. He was very discourteous to Pleaders and passed caustic remarks. There were scenes in the Court almost every day. On 5-10-23, when Mr. G. V. Subbarao was conducting a Summary Suit, he obstructed him at every stage and said "This is not a Civil Court where you can do anything you please". When Mr. Subba Rao said that he did not see any difference between the two Courts and did not think that this Court was superior to the Civil Court, the Deputy Collector said "you are obstinate and impertinent from the beginning" and asked him to walk out.

On the complaint of Mr. Subba Rao, the Bar Association passed a Resolution on 8-10-23 and communicated it to the District Collector. The Collector called for the explanation of the Deputy Collector but refused to take action against him. He would not inform the Bar Association as to what explanation was given. The President thereupon wrote a letter to the High Court Vakils' Association. The Chief Justice caused an enquiry to be made. The Registrar wrote a letter dated 12-3-24 to the Secretary of the High Court Vakils' Association that His Lordship caused an enquiry to be made and found that the allegation of Mr. G. V. Subbarao about the treatment meted out to him by Mr. D. Seshagiri Rao, Deputy Collector, was substantially correct and that the conduct of the Deputy Collector in his reference to waste of time in Civil Courts and in telling the Vakil not to be impertinent and asking him to walk out, was at once foolish and improper. His Lordship was bringing the matter to the

notice of the Government, as he felt that it was not one with which he could deal. This communication was sent to the President Bezwada Bar Association for circulation. The Deputy Collector was immediately transferred. Many papers relating to these incidents are preserved by Mr. Virayya.

Mr. K. Subrahmanyam a Pleader who went to argue an Appeal before Mr. A. Savarinadha Pillai, Assistant - Commissioner of Income Tax, Bezwada, on 10-2-26 complained that when he wanted to cite some decisions, the Assistant Commissioner said "You talk nonsense. I do not want your Law and Argument. You talk all rot. I dismiss your Appeal.' In reply to a letter written by Mr. Virayya President, Bar Association, he sent the reply dated 13-2-26 saying that he did not remember the exact words used by him but only remembered that he had meant to say that some of the arguments were pointless and that he had since met the vakil and told him that he did not intend to be discourteous and he was sorry if he felt offended. As he apologised in so many words, the matter was dropped. The papers preserved by late P. Virayya Garu contain particulars of these incidents.

There were misunderstandings between Mr. P. Ranga Swami Iyengar, Sub Judge, and the Bar when the new Court buildings were ready in December 1930. He refused to give them the small hall intended as a Bar room in the new building. So the members of the Bar decided to boycott the opening ceremony by the District Judge. Mr. Zaheeruddin Saheb District Munsif who was popular, intervened and pacified the members. They attended the function on 1-12-30 but when

Mr. C. S. Mahadeva Iyer, District Judge, called for three cheers nobody responded.

Mr. T. Bhujanga Rao who succeeded Mr. Rangaswami Iyengar as Sub - Judge gave the hall as a Bar Room. But later on the hall was used to locate the 2nd Additional Sub Court and a small room in the extreme west, was given to the Bar Association. Screens were put up around the verandahs and the members managed somehow. Even the 1st Independence Day on 15-8-1947 was celebrated by the Bar Association while occupying the small room. Later on the party shed in the west was converted into a Bar Room. Proposals for the construction of a separate building for the Bar Association were pending for a long number of years and at last when Mr T. Viswanatham was Law Minister, the scheme was sanctioned and the present building was constructed with a big hall. Later on a second hall was constructed and added to the previous hall in 1957.

Mr. Nidamarthi Narasimham came to Bezwada as District Munsif in 1931. His conduct both on the Bench and outside, was intolerable. He was moving with some Pleaders very closely and showing favour to them.

The following were some of his faults: Unsatisfactory and hasty disposal, not recording evidence properly, Brow beating the witness; Preventing Pleaders from examininnig and cross examining witnesses freely; never reading the pleadings or documents himself; adding findings on some issues after pronouncing Judgments without notice to Pleaders; writing "heard arguments" without actually

hearing arguments; partiality to some Pleaders, and access to them or their relations; over bearing nature and frequent loss of temper on the Bench.

Petitions were sent to the District Court and High Court. He then began to harass the Pleaders to produce their accounts. Desa Seva, edited by his brother-in-law' charged abnormal rates for publishing Court notices etc. Transfer petitions with allegations against the Munsif and Messers P. Appa Rao, K. S. Ramachandra Rao, A. V. V. Ramabrahmam, V. V. S. Avadhani and two others were also filed. Statistical data of cases in which injustice was done and Pleaders were superseded by his favourites were submitted to the District Judge, and the High Court. Messrs. C. Venkatappayya and D. V. Sivarao among others took prominent part, in collecting data etc. Mr. Virayya submitted a separate petition.

On 19-12-1932 the Munsif put up a notice that it has been brought to his notice that some members of the Bar had conspired together and got up a petition with false allegations and that some members of the staff were in league with them and that the 69 Pleaders mentioned in the notice believed to have signed the petition and their clerks should not be permitted to step into the office and they should transact their business through the windows. Any Pleader requiring any information should apply to the Munsif. The staff was prohibited from giving any information. There was great tension in the Court and every day many cases were decided against the Pleaders who were believed to have signed the petition. Representations were made and telegrams were sent to the authorities but no action

was taken till the Court was closed for summer vacation. The Munsif was trasferred after the vacation. Much havoc was done by him meanwhile. Many Civil Revision Petitions and Appeals had to be filed against his Orders and Judgments. Except 6 or 7 Pleaders who were his favourites and who were benefitted by his illegal acts, all other Lawyers stood as one man in the great struggle against this officer*

For some years after this sensational affair, Judicial Officers who were posted to Bezwada used to feel nervous. Some would remark that the Bezwada Bar is difficult to deal with. But many officers who actually worked here felt that the Bar though independent and assertive of its privileges and prestige, respected good officers and fully co-operated with them.

On 1-4-1947 D. V. Siva Rao, the President together with Mr. D. Seshadri Sastry and V. Kanakabapayya Chowdary interviewed Mr. P. V. Narasimha Raju District Collector and informed him about the discourteous behaviour of Mr. Jesudasu, Sub-Magistrate to Mr. P. V. Raghavayya, an Advocate. He was informed about corruption and other matters also. He promised to take action and the Magistrate was transferred.

On 9-9-1947 D. V. Sivarao President, Bar Association addressed a letter to the District Magistrate, Krishna about the inconvenience caused by the Sub-Collector holding Court in his bunglaw at irregular times. The Sub-Collector was informed and he promised to give up the practice.

Copies of records regarding this officer are preserved by D. V. Siva Rao.

On 25 9-1947 D. V. Sivarao, President met Mr. R. C. Joshi, I. C. S., Sub-Collector Vijayawada and brought to his notice that the Bench clerk was changing the postings of House Rent Control cases and posting miscellaneous work in out of the way stations causing inconvenience to the Bar. Irregularities in his office were also pointed out. He complained that Congress men were interfering with his work. The President wrote a letter to the Editor of the Hindu about this and it was published in the Hindu. Just at that time Sri Konda Venkatappayya Pantulu, Congress leader had also made a statement about congressmen interfering with administrative work. The President referred to this in the above letter.

After India became free and a Democratic Republic, by and large, the relations between the Bench and the Bar have been cordial

Many members of the Bezwada Bar besides being able Lawyers were talented men, who distinguished themselves in extra professional activities and served the town and the country in many fields. A few examples are given below: The list is only illustrative and not exhaustive.

Municipal Council :

Mr. Tadanki Venkata Narasayya was chairman for many years. Mr. B. Venkatappayya acted as Delegate Chairman. Messrs. Singaraju Lingaiah, A. Kaleswararao, C. K. Reddi, J. D. Samuel, C. Rajagopalachari and Mahaboob Ali Baig were Chairmen of Vijayawada

Municipality. Mr. D. Madhusudna Rao acted as Chairman - Delegate.

Many improvements were effected to the Town during their time. Water works, electrification and parks were provided. Mr. Samuel conceived of a scheme to grow trees on the hills and along the canals to beautify the town but it still remains a scheme.

The subway and a market are named after Mr. C. Rajagopalachari, and the main market after Mr. A. Kaleswararao in recognition of their services to Vijayawada Town. Many members of the Bar served as Councillors of Vijayawada Municipality.

Local Boards :

Mr. Kovelamudi Gopalakrishnayya was President of the Taluk Board.

Co-operation and Banking :

Messrs. C. Rajagopalachari and D. Vishnurao.

Library Movement :

Mr. S. V. Narasimha Sastry, Mr. Ayyadevara Kaleswara Rao, Boddapati Venkatappayya and others co-operated to establish The Ram Mohan Public Library at Vijayawada. Mr. Sastry was the President of All India Library Association.

Politics - Congress:

Mr. Singaraju Subbarayudu Garu, a distinguished Lawyer who practised in Masulipatam and Bezwada and other places, attended the first National Congress in 1885.

Messrs. Kaleswara Rao, S. V. Narasimha Sastry and P. Veerayya were the close friends of Mr. Gadicherla Hari Sarvothama Rao, M. A., who was convicted for sedition in 1908 for editing the Swarajya at Bezwada, during the VANDE MATHARAM movement. Their houses were searched. Mr. A. Kaleswararao helped Sri B. C. Pal during his Andhra tour, which had a great effect on the Andhra Youth. Mr. P. Virayya attended the Surat Congress.

Mr. Ayyadevara Kaleswararao gave up practice in pursuance of Gandhiji's Non-Co-operation Movement in 1921. He courted Jail several times during the Civil disobedience movement. He became Chief Parliamentary Secretary in 1937 in the first Congress Ministry formed by the Chief Minister Sri C. Rajagopalachari in Madras including the Telugu Districts of the present Andhra Pradesh. He was elected as Speaker of the Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly in 1957 and he died in office in February 1962, after being elected to the Legislative Assembly again on the date of his death. He was a self less worker and sacrificed his lucrative practice and property in the National cause. He was also a good writer and wrote a number of works.

Messrs. D. Madhusudhana Rao, D. Seshadri Sastry, P. Appa Rao suspended their practice for one year 1921.

Justice Party :

Mr. Kovelamudi Gopala Krishnayya. He wrote a book on the "Indian Political Craze".

Muslim League :

Mr. Mahabub Ali Baig.

Legislature :

Messrs. A. Kaleswara Rao, C. K. Reddi, K. Gopala Krishnaiah, Mahabub Ali Baig, T. S. Ramarao, and Asif Pasha.

Ayurveda :

Messrs. Boddapati Venkatappayya, T. V. Rao, Bar - at - Law., L. Niranjana Rao and V. Srinivasa Murthy.

Insurance and Banking :

Mr. Goteti Lakshmi Narayana.

Literary Activities :

Messrs. P. Virayya, S. Kambhotlu. V. Srinivasa Murthi, Putcha Purnanandam, Garikipati Krishna Murty, S. Anjaneya Sastry, K. C. Venkata Rao and D. V. Siva Rao.

Journalism :

Messrs. P. Virayya, A. Kaleswara Rao, D. Srinivasa Sarma, D. V. Siva Rao, C. Venkatappayya and P. Kesava Rao. Mr. Venkatappayya was the Sub-Editor of Swarajya founded by Andhra Kesari Prakasam.

History :

Messrs. D. V. Siva Rao and A. Kaleswara Rao, wrote a number of books in Telugu. Siva Rao was honoured by the Government of Andhra Pradesh as a historian at a public function on 22-9-66.

Poetry :

Messrs. B. Sithapatirao, Basavaraju Apparao, Patibanda Apparao and Dantu Srinivasa Sarma, Kodali Damodarayya and S. Anjaneya Sastry.

Drama :

Messrs. Krosuri Veerayya, G. V. Krishna Rao, S. S. Ramachandra Rao, P. Ramachandra Kasyapa, S. Basvayya Sastry and V. Ramanna Panthulu.

Photography :

Mr. C. Venkatappayya.

Music :

Mr. Polavarapu Ramachandra Rao.

Mimicry :

Mr. Nerella Lakshmana Rao

Sports :

- (1) Tennis : Sri G. L. Narayana.
- (2) Billiards : Sri G. L. Narayana.
- (3) Chess : Sri K. Sriramamurthy; T. L. N. Rao,
- (4) Cards : Messrs. M. Koteswara Rao, G. V. Raghava Rao, G. L. Narayana, V. Satyanarayana, A. Triambakam.

Sanskrit :

Mr. Garikipati Krishna Murthy.

Astrology :

Messrs. Peddibhotla Virayya, G. V. Subba Rao, Kuchibhotla Venkata Subba Rao.

Civic Association :

Mr. M. V. Siva Sarma.

Telugu Law Journal :

Mr. B. Kanakaraju, a member of this Bar shifted to Gudivada and has been publishing the Law Journal in Telugu for 28 years.

Mr. Pasumarti Seetarama Sastry gave up practice and became a sanyasi, and is known as Sri Ramananda Saraswathi.

Struggle for Freedom

The Bar Association as such did not take part either in the Vande Matharam Movement in 1907-08 or in the Non - Co - Operation Movement in 1920-22. At that time only Mr. A. Kaleswara Rao and a few other members of the Bar took part in the movement. Some sympathised with it but others opposed the participation of Lawyers in active politics. It was only from 1930 that the Bar took more and more interest in the Freedom Struggle.

A Notice was issued by Sri Peddibhotla Veerayya, President, Bar Association on 15-12-1921 that there will be an extra - ordinary meeting of the members of the Bar at Edward Town Hall at 6 P. M. precisely, to consider the situation created by the Repressive Measures in India. Thirty members signed the notice and some of them made remarks as follows :

C. S. Narayanamurthy : "I shall protest."

B. Sithapathi Rao : "I oppose as it is outside the scope of our Association to discuss about this subject in question."

C. Rajagopalachari : "If existing Law is broken, the culprits are liable to the punishment. You call this repression? absurd." (He was then the Pleader doing Government work.)

S. Narayanaswamy Naidu : "The object of the meeting is clearly outside the scope of the Bar Association. If the Convenor is anxious he may organise a general meeting of the public. I object to the meeting."

M. Narasimha Rao : "I oppose the holding of such meetings as I consider them unnecessary."

T. Jagannadham : "Splendid!"

Mr. Kaleswara Rao gave up practice at the Bar in March 1921 and went to jail in 1922, 1930, 1932, 1940 and 1942 in connection with the Freedom Struggle.

On 12-3-1930 when Gandhiji started for the Dandi March (Salt Satyagraha) the Bar Association under the Presidentship of Sri. C. Rajagopalachari, welcomed Gandhiji's Satyagraha Movement for Poorna Swaraj. It also passed a Resolution that Members of the Bar should not attend official functions.

On 4-5-1930 on the eve of Salt Satyagraha, members of the Bar went in procession in the town holding national flags. Sri C. Rajagopalachari and senior members participated in it.

There were house searches during the period of Satyagraha and the houses of Messrs. Digavalli Venkata Siva Rao, Cherukupalli Venkatappayya and Tummalapalli Jagannadham Vakils were searched

in June 1930. The Police Circle Inspector tried to seize the Minutes Book of the Bar Association but he could not succeed. M. C. 46/30 was filed against D. V. Siva Rao, on 25-8-1930 for writing Booklets for Congress propaganda. He was acquitted as no sanction was obtained from the government. A second case was filed against him after obtaining sanction of the Governor in - Council. The case was withdrawn under the terms of Gandhi Irwin Pact.

Mr. Pisipati Sithakantham, Pleader, who went to Tiruvur clad in khaddar, was denuded by a Mahammadan Head Constable and was kicked by him. An enquiry was made by the Bar and a criminal case was launched against him. The Joint Magistrate fined him Rs. 25/-. (This incident was the subject of a question in British Parliament). In both these cases the Bar Association took special interest.

In trying to suppress the Civil Disobedience Movement the Police in Bezwada and in the District not only mercilessly belaboured Congress Volunteers with lathis but also ill-treated them. Even women were not spared. Rao Saheb, C. K. Reddi and Mr. Ali Baig members of the Legislative Council did not put questions about the police excesses. D. V. Siva Rao thereupon regularly sent particulars of such instances to his friend Mr. U. C. Subrahmanya Bhat B. A., B. L., Vakil, Mangalore and Member of Legislative Council and he made interpellations and spoke in the Council about Police excesses and repression.

On 10-7-32 twenty members of the Bar including

Messrs. P. V. Subbayya Chowdary, G. Venkateswara Rao, C. Venkatappayya, D. V. Siva Rao signed a Memorandum and submitted it to the members of the Legislative Council Madras, and also the Government, asking for an enquiry about the police excesses in Bezwada and Krishna District detailed in the Memorandum. As the Government did not take action on it, Mr. U. C. Subrahmanya Bhat B. A., B. L., (M. L. C.) Mangalore put questions in the Legislative Council, Madras, regarding the Memorandum and the Government placed it on the table with a Communique saying that the facts are exaggerated. It was printed in the proceedings of the Council. This memorandum was also presented to the India League Delegation of Labour M. P. s by Siva Rao when it visited Bezwada during that year. It is printed in their report in London. The Bar Association recently passed a resolution placing on record the valuable services of Mr. U. C. S. Bhat in 1932 and communicated it to him and the Mangalore Bar Association.

For a long time there were no Rules and Regulations for the Bar Association. The business was conducted in accordance with the general principles of Law and practice. The Bar Association appointed a Sub committee consisting of Goteti Lakshminarayana and others to draft the Regulations. The Memorandum of Association and the Regulations of the Bezwada Bar Association was duly registered under the Societies' Registration Act of 1860.

Regulations 34 to 36 relate to the Library of the Association. The nucleus of Bar Association Library was a set of Indian Law Reports of the library of Sri

Madapati Venkateswararao got by Mr. Turlapati Venkateswara Rao Bar - at - law. Later on, relatives of some deceased members presented some sets of Law Reports. Special subscriptions were also collected for purchase of Text Books etc. Some almirahs were donated by some members and some were purchased. Sri D. Srinivasa Sarma took great pains when he was secretary in improving the Library. The Bar Association subscribed for two sets of A. I. R. besides the Madras Law Journal and other Reports. Messrs. T. Jagannatham and T. V. Suryanarayana gave their Law Libraries on retirement.

Mr. A. S. Rama Rao took lot of pains to improve the premises and the furniture of the Association. Mr. P. L. Narayana Sastry took great pains to expedite the construction of the new building of the Association in 1957.

Regulation 44 : of the Regulations of the Bar Association provides for a Law Dinner to be held every year before the Court closes for summer, to which Judicial Officers were also to be invited. A few such Dinners were given but later on the Dinners were given up.

Regulation 49 : provides for Cultural and Educational activities to be organised by the Managing Committee. Some meetings were organised and some plays were put on boards during some functions but no special activities or regular activities were organised. Sree G. Murali Mohan and others, organised a Study Circle for the study of legal recently constitutional and other subjects of public interest. Some papers were read and lectures were organised.

It became the practice of the Bar Association to give Tea parties to out-going Munsifs and Sub-Judges inspite of the resolution prohibiting functions in honour of Officials. The members of the Bar as distinguished from the Bar Association as a body began to give such tea-parties to out-going officers, and to District Judges who visited Courts for inspection every year.

In 1941 Mr. P. Appa Rao wrote Telugu poems giving caricature pen pictures of some members of the Bar and published them under the title "CHITRA SALA" It is a very interesting work and it is a pity it was not brought up-to-date.

On 4-3-1945 Mr. C. Rajagopalachari a distinguished Advocate of Bezwada, who had been the President of the Bar Association for a number of years retired from active practice at the age of 65. A grand farewell function was held in his honour and his portrait adorns the walls of the Association.

As the Municipality used to cut off water supply in the afternoon there would be no water in the tap in the Court premises during the hot hours of summer months. and Lawyers and litigant public suffered for want of drinking water. D. V. Siva Rao when he was the President of the Bar Association in 1947 addressed the District judge to employ a water - supplier from the "Hot and Cold weather Charges". The District Judge said that there was no provision for it. The President then adressed the High Court and the Government and a G. O. was passed permitting the employment of a water - supplier between 1st March and 31st. August of each

year, vide letter of Sub - Asst - Registrar, High Court, Madras to the District Judge and President, Bar Association dated 29-8-1947. It was done for some years but it is now neglected.

In 1947 "The Forum of the Bar Association" was constituted. The members present in the Bar Room could discuss any problem and pass a Resolution and the Managing Committee of the Association would take notice of the Resolution and do the needful immediately. It functioned very well for some time. Questions of delay and defects in the supply of Court Fee Stamps, irregularities in the rationing, public sanitation in Bezwada and various questions relating to the public and the Legal profession were discussed, resolved upon and implemented

A Register of Lawyers was prepared by D V. Siva Rao in which each lawyer wrote the date of his birth, date of joining the Bar, his education, children and hobbies. A list of the Presidents and Secretaries of the Bar, Munsifs and Sub-Judges, was also prepared. Unfortunately this Register was recently lost.

On 13-4-1947 an address was presented by the Bar Association to Sri Tanguturi Prakasam, National Leader and the Premier of the Composite State of Madras. This address was presented after Sri Prakasam ceased to be Premier.

On 15-8-1947 the first Independence Day was celebrated on a grand scale. Prominent citizens of Bezwada irrespective of caste, creed or political persuasion were invited and the function was well attended. The Portraits of

Mahatma Gandhi, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and Subhash Chandra Bose were unveiled in the Bar Room.

On 23-12-1947 The Bar Association Day was celebrated. Local Officers as well as Officers in the District attended.

After the advent of Freedom, the Bar Association began to take active interest in the working of Democracy. It invited many political leaders to address the members of the Bar. The Speaker of the Lok Sabha, The Vice-President of India and Members of the Union Government, and of the Andhra State Government and the Judges of High Court and Supreme Court paid visits to the Bar Association.

The Bar Association took interest in the Official Language question and passed resolutions and communicated to the Government.

On 23-12-65 Senior members of the Bar submitted a Memorandum to Mr. P. V. Narasimha Rao, Minister in-charge of Official Language protesting against the imposition of Hindi terminology in translating Acts Rules, and Notices issued thereunder. The study circle also submitted a Memorandum dated 24-12-65 condemning the translations

D. V. Sivarao Member of the Translation Committee constituted by the Government, released the translations to the Press in September 1967 and submitted his resignation. The Andhra Prabha published his statement and wrote Editorials. The Government there upon issued a White Paper on Official Language on 2-7-1968. The agitation continued.

The Bar Association, Passed the following Resolutions on 14 8 1968.

1) This Bar Association is of the opinion that the Telugu version of the Notice issued to the Pattadars under the A. P. I and Revenue Enhancement Act of 1967 ignores the Telugu Vocabulary and the way of using it. The Telugu language in the Notice is unintelligible and such a notice is not a valid notice under law. This Association requests the Government to withdraw the notice and order that it be translated into Telugu in use in the country.

2) This Bar Association is of the opinion that the so called All India Terminology that the State Government proposes to use in translating the Acts., is defective both in structure and content and the terms are not correct Sanskrit forms and although they may suit the Hindi Language, they do not fit into the Telugu Language.

This Bar Association draws the attention of the Government to the fact that the Telugu Translation of the Constitution of India published by the Government in 1952 using the said terminology is not at all used by the public as it is unintelligible.

3) This Bar Association is of the opinion that the White Paper issued by the Government ignores the fact that the Telugu Language that can be made the Official Language in this State should be the Telugu in use in the country and not a new language supercharged with Hindi Vocabulary.

4) This Bar Association approves the Memorandum submitted by the Senior members of this Bar on 23-12-65

and the Study Circle of the Bar on 24-12-65 to the Minister - in - charge of Official Language and request the Government to order that the translations of Acts, Rules and Notifications and Notices should be made in accordance with the principles mentioned in the above memorandum.

The Diamond Jubilee of the Bezwada Bar Association was celebrated with great pomp amidst scenes of great eclat, and enthusiasm on 21-12-1968. Advantage was taken of the presence of the Chief Justice of the Andhra Pradesh High Court and Chief Minister of the State, to bring to their notice the crying need for reform of the administration of justice in various speheres and for giving the Bar its due place in the Democratic set up.

The Jubilee was a great success but the lavish scale on which it was conducted and the huge expenditure incurred and the utilisation of the balance became the subject matter of controversy and caused a rift in the ranks of the Association and the Proceedings of the Association were marred by disharmony for some time. The matter was however recently settled amicably and a new wing of the Bar Association Library with books purchased from out of the balance of funds of the Jubilee adorns the Association Hall.

The following table will show the names of the Presidents and Secretaries of the Association between 1968 and 1975 ;

Year	President	Secretary
1968	Mr. B. V. Kutumba Rao	Mr. K. Venkateswarlu
1969	Mr. P. Ramachandra Rao	Mr. N. Harinath

Year	President	Secretary
1970	Mr. A. Vittal Rao	Mr. P. V. Rama Sarma
1971	Mr. A. R. Chowdary	Mr. A. S. Ramarao
1972	Mr. H. A. P. Sastry	Mr. K. S. Murty
1973	Mr. K. Ramamohanarao	Mr. Jaffer Sheriff
1974	Mr. C. V. S. R. Krishna	Mr. A. B. R. Prasad
1975	Mr. P. Purnanandam	Mr. G. V. Ramayya

The most notable event that occurred between 1968 and 1975 is the part played by the Association in what is known as the "JAI ANDHRA" or Separate Andhra agitation of 1972 which rocked the State of Andhra Pradesh and resulted in the abolition of the Telangana Regional Committee. The Separate Budget and in the promulgation of the six point formula of the Prime Minister for the enforcement of the Mulki Rules without detriment to the rights of the people of the Andhra area.

The full story of the Jai Andhra Agitation, its causes, course and its suppression can be read in the books published by various persons and especially in the authoritative work of Sri M. V. Ramamurthi, Advocate and Secretary of the Action Committee, published in September 1973. It is enough to mention here that the agitation is the result of the great injustice done to the people of Andhra area by the politicians of the Andhra and Telangana areas in the course of their mutual bickerings for power.

It was the students that first rose in revolt against the attempt of the then Chief Minister Sri P. V. Narasimha Rao to enforce the Mulki Rules in October, 1972. The Non Gazetted officers joined the agitation and struck work.

The Chief Minister tried to suppress the agitation by employing the C. R. P. Battalions and the free use of the lathi and the gun with prohibitory orders under section 144 Cr. P. C. The C. R. P. beat people indiscriminately and opened fire without warning in Adoni, Ongole, and Tenali on 21-11-1972 and caused loss of life and casualties, and this enraged the people of the Andhra area and all sections of the people rose as one man to protest against the partisan attitude and unjust policy of the Chief Minister and the atrocities of the C. R. P.

On 27-11-1972 the Prime Minister announced her "Five Point Formula" for the enforcement of the Mulki Rules. The people of the Andhra felt it was unjust and deprives them of the elementary rights of citizenship and protested. The Chief Minister who had a hand in the promulgation of the formula was determined to enforce the formula and suppress public opinion by bringing in more Battalions of C. R. P. The Rule of Law was thrown to the winds and illegal orders under 144 Cr. P. C. were promulgated in all towns, and the C. R. P. was asked to enforce the same.

The members of the Bezwada Bar Association protested against the Five Point Formula and went in procession on 28-11-1972 defying the orders under Section 144 Cr. P. C. and presented a Memorandum to the Collector to be forwarded to the Government. They demanded that the Mulki Rules should be abrogated and the Rule of Law should be upheld, and justice done to the Andhra people. The members of the Bar in other places followed suit and two Conferences of Lawyers were held one at Rajahmundry on 30-11-1972 and the other at Vijayawada on

7-12-1972. About 700 lawyers attended the Vijayawada conference which was presided over by Mr. Tenneti Viswanadham. Resolutions were passed rejecting the Five Point Formula and demanding the abolition of the Telangana Regional Committee and the Separate Budget and the abrogation of the Mulki Rules. An Action Committee was formed to carry on agitation to achieve the objectives. Members of the Bezwada Bar and else where, boycotted the courts and carried on agitation for about five months.

On 24-12-1972 Hell was let loose by the C. R. P in Vijayawada under the directions of the Chief Minister, to strike terror among the people and to suppress the agitation. The C. R. P opened fire in many places and a number of people were killed and many were injured. Under the cover of an illegal Curfew imposed under Sec 144 Cr. P. C. the C. R. P beat people indiscriminately, trespassing into their houses and committed atrocities.

On 25-12-1972 the Bar Association constituted a Fact Finding Committee who after an elaborate enquiry and examination of 100 witnesses found that the C. R. P had highhandedly beat people and opened fire without warning, and caused deaths and casualties and trespassed into the private houses and committed atrocities under the cover of the illegal Curfew. Their Report is dated 7-1-1973 and was recorded by the Bar Association and copies were sent to the appropriate authorities. It should be mentioned that Sri. K. R. Venugopal the Collector has played a prominent part in suppressing the

agitation by imposing Curfew illegally and abetting the atrocities of the C. R. P. and by other high handed actions in utter disregard of the Rule of Law.

On 28-1-1973 Sri Y. V. Hanumantha Rao, member of the Bezwada Bar Association filed a Writ Petition in the High Court against Sri Venugopal the Collector and the Government challenging the illegal imposition of Curfew in Vijayawada and the unlawful acts committed by the Collector and the other Officers and the cruel methods followed by the C. R. P. He has also filed a petition against one P. Sitapati an employee of the Government and the Deccan Chronicle of Hyderabad for Contempt of Court for publishing an article justifying the imposition of Curfew under Sec. 144 Cr. P. C. These petitions created a sense of confidence among the people and a searching of hearts in the authorities concerned.

The Bar Association also sent a Memorandum to the Governor on 28-1-73, about the unlawful Curfew and the atrocities Committed under its Cover.

During February and March, 1973 two Book lets entitled "The Telangana Andhra Problem" and "Who is responsible for Violence?" were published by Messrs. D V. Siva Rao and Y. V. Hanumantha Rao, Advocates, and sent to the members of Parliament and the Central and State Governments. These book-lets narrate the story of the Jai Andhra agitation the cruel and unlawful methods adopted by the authorities and atrocities of the C. R. P.

Sri P. V. Narasimharao resigned on 17-1-1973 and the President's Rule was imposed in Andhra Pradesh. Mr. H. C. Sarin an old Bureaucrat was appointed adviser to the Governor. He continued the repressive policy of the Ex. Chief Minister with greater rigour and let loose greater terrorism by the C. R. P. There was counter violence by some enraged agitators in the great upsurge that followed and it rocked the Andhra State. The administration was practically paralysed. Offices did not work, Trains and Buses did not run and postal service stopped. Even the All India Radio Vijayawada had to stop its programmes and then carry on under the heavy guard of the C. R. P. The only function of the authorities seemed to be to strike terror into the people and put down the agitation and not the maintenance of Law and Order in the ordinary sense. There was no security for the lives and properties of the citizens and murders were committed and left undetected. The atrocities of the C. R. P. were not checked. The entire Andhra area and Vijayawada in particular was put under an undeclared Martial Law as it were, the Armed Forces parading the streets and Military Vans and Tanks kept in readiness.

The suppression of Public Opinion by such unconstitutional methods is a sad commentary on the Government of India which professes to function under a Democratic Constitution which guarantees Fundamental Rights.

Every Lawyer in the land should be proud of the Bezwada Bar Association which upheld the Rule of Law and fought for justice and Civil Liberties and also for the privileges of the Legal profession, during all these years.

Appendix

29-9-1908.

To
The District Judge,
Krishna.

The Humble representation of P. V. Ramanayya,
Pleader Bezwada respectfully sheweth:

Honoured Sir,

It has been my painful duty to approach your honour once more on the subject of the strained feelings between the bench and the bar at Bezawada. Your honour's surprise visit to the town and my interview this morning with your honour along with some leading members of the bar, have had their effect on the mind of our District Munsif. It has already been brought to your honour's notice how an informal conversation of our grievances took place in the Bar room reached the munsif's ear and how from that moment the personal relations between the bench and the bar have become very unpleasant, how we are being treated by the Munsif what new restrictions have been imposed unnecessarily and suddenly by the munsif. The utter disregard to original suits, and to the convenience of parties and witness and the active illtreatment of Pleaders in various ways, have brought matters to a climax. The Munsif saw me this morning going to your honour to represent the state of things here and as the oldest member of the bar, the Munsif believes that I was instrumental in bringing about the present

enquiry. By the time I took leave of your honour and reached the Court house after meals, the Munsif called two of my first hearing cases and dismissed them and although another Pleader appeared for me the Munsif would not allow representation. In one of the cases the plaintiff was actually present in the court. In the ordinary course of the present postings of the Munsif, the suit should have been adjourned to March 1909 for Issues. But however contrary to the state of things allowed to continue notwithstanding the proceedings of 3-9-'08; the Munsif's action to-day indicates his modus - operandi in the future. I have extensive practice in this court as a Pleader of 24 years' standing and if matters are allowed to take their own course as at present, the litigant public will be greatly inconvenienced and put to considerable pecuniary loss and anxiety and trouble. If even during the stay of your honour in this town and when my late attendance in court was due to my being sent for by your honour and when the Munsif who was fully aware of it, has chosen to dismiss my first hearing suits in which amounts involved are of Rs 1475 and 205 respectively, I cannot possibly conceive of the inconvenience and worry we may have at the hands of this Munsif if he is allowed to continue at Bezawada any longer.

It is therefore prayed that your Honour may be pleased to report to the honourable Judges of the High Court the state of things here at an early date and redress our grievances.

SAVITA PRINTERS
VIJAYAWADA - 2
